

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A digital image reading apparatus comprising:
  - reading means for optically reading an image of a document to output digital image data;
  - 10 first setting means for setting a reading rate in a given scanning direction to a desired value;
  - 15 an image memory for temporarily storing the image data;
  - 15 second setting means for setting parameters related to reading the image of the document based on communication with an external apparatus; and computation means for computing a total amount of the image data from the parameters,
  - 20 wherein the first setting means sets the reading rate based on the total amount of the image data.

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the first setting means resets the reading  
rate to a value higher than a value to which the  
reading rate is set when the total amount of the  
5 image data is smaller than a storage capacity of the  
image memory.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
further comprising transfer means for transferring  
the image data from the image memory to the external  
apparatus by communication means.

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4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,  
20 wherein IEEE 1394 is employed as the communication  
means.

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5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,  
wherein SCSI is employed as the communication means.

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6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein said first setting means sets the reading  
rate by controlling a stepping motor involved in  
10 scanning in the given scanning direction.

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15 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the first setting means primarily sets the  
reading rate on the basis of an available capacity of  
said image memory.

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25 8. A digital image reading apparatus  
comprising:  
an optical reader optically reading an image

of a document to output digital image data;

a memory temporarily storing the image data from the optical reader; and

5 a controller computing a total amount of the  
image data of the document and controlling a reading  
rate in a given scanning direction on the basis of  
the total amount of the image data stored in the  
memory.

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